(b) and (c) The required information is given in the Statement (*see* below)

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Funds released under various schemes for extremist affected districts (Rs. in crore)

Sl.No	Name of the Scheme	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1.	Police Modernization (PM) Scheme	-	-	296.00
2.	Security Related Expenditure (SRE) Scheme	16.34	9.54	8.31
3.	(i) Special Plan for the 8 KBK districts of Orissa	-	200.00	250.00*
	(ii) Backward Districts Initiative	-	-	202.50**

Note: Police modernization scheme initiated in 2003-04; Backward Districts Initiative in 2003-04 and Special Plan for the KBK districts in 2002-03

* Out of this amount, Rs. 25.00 corre was released in April, 2004

** Out of this amount, Rs. 30.00 crore was released in April, 2004

Utilization of Foreign Exchange for Projects

1543. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the planning Commission has finalized a plan to utilize the foreign exchange reserves to fund infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission have discussed the matter with the Reserve Bank of India;

(c) the reaction of Reserve Bank of india to the suggestion of the Planning Commission;

(d) whether any formula has been drawn up to withdraw the foreign exchange for specific infrastructure projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No Sir. The utilization of foreign exchange reserves to fund infrastructure projects is one of the possible options but no concrete plan has peen finalized.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Plans for Groundwater

1544. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has drawn a plan for conservation, augmentation, exploration and regulation of the groundwater in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps expected to be taken by the State and the Central Governments and the local bodies in this regard; and

(d) how far the average groundwater level has gone down during the Ninth Plan and Tenth Plan period so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Water being a State subject, the planning, funding and development of water resources is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. The National Water Policy (2002) has advocated periodic reassessment of the groundwater potential, regulation of exploitation of ground water resources so as not to exceed the recharging possibilities and conjunctive use of surface and ground water resources. The Central Ground Water Board under the Ministry of Water Resources is assisting the State Governments in survey, planning and development of ground water resources, monitoring of groundwater levels and providing technical guidance to them and the local bodies for artificial recharge techniques. The Central Ground Water Authority has been constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, (1986) to regulate indiscriminate boring and withdrawal of groundwater in the country and issue necessary regulatory directions with a view to preserve and protect the groundwater. The Central